

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SILICON IN JUNE 2003

In June 2003, domestic production of silicon ferroalloys plus metal, excluding silvery pig iron, was estimated to have decreased by 14% compared with the revised corresponding figure of 31,300 metric tons (t) for the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Domestic shipments increased slightly while producer stocks decreased by 4% compared with the revised corresponding figure of 35,800 t for April 2003. All domestic data for ferrosilicon have been combined to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

The May 2003 trade data included in this report indicated that silicon metal imports increased by 26% on a gross weight basis compared with those of April 2003. Ferrosilicon imports, on a gross weight basis, were more than double those of April, owing primarily to a significant increase in the trade category "ferrosilicon, 55% - 80% silicon, other." On a gross weight basis, ferrosilicon exports decreased by 48% compared with those of April, with significant decreases in both trade categories. Silicon metal exports decreased by 6% compared with those in April, owing to decreases in the trade categories "silicon metal, more than 99.99% silicon" and "silicon metal, other."

Update

In July, Walter Industries, Inc., initiated the sale of its ferroalloy subsidiary, Applied Industrial Minerals Corporation (AIMCOR) headquartered in Stamford, CT. The company

plans to run AIMCOR's business as usual during the sales process, although it considers the subsidiary a discontinued operation for tax purposes (Ryan's Notes, 2003a; Walter Industries, Inc., 2003§¹). In July, AIMCOR restarted its subsidiary Tennessee Alloy ferrosilicon furnace located in Bridgeport, AL, after a two-month shutdown (Platts Metals Week, 2003).

In July, the Russian Government announced it would raise the duty on silicon metal imports from 5% to 20%, but not less than €160 per metric ton. Most of the silicon metal imported into the country is from China (Ryan's Notes, 2003b).

¹A reference that includes a section mark (§) is found in the Internet Reference Cited section.

References Cited

Platts Metals Week, 2003, Tenn Alloys FeSi furnace up after two-month shutdown: Platts Metals Week, v. 74, no. 32, August 11, p. 9.
Ryan's Notes, 2003a, Lower US SiMn prices: Ryan's Notes, v. 9, no. 31, August 4, p. 3.
Ryan's Notes, 2003b, Russia to increase Si duty to 20%: Ryan's Notes, v. 9, no. 29, July 21, p. 2.

Internet Reference Cited

Walter Industries, Inc., 2003 (July 21), Walter Industries formalizes plan to divest AIMCOR—Announces favorable \$406 million tax case, accessed August 15, 2003, at URL <http://stg.syndnet.thomsonfn.com/InvestorRelations/>

Prices, cents per pound, silicon content

	<u>50% Ferrosilicon¹</u>	<u>75% Ferrosilicon²</u>	<u>Silicon Metal²</u>
June 5	42.0-47.0	47.0-48.0	60.0-62.0
June 12	42.0-47.0	47.0-48.0	60.0-62.0
June 19	42.0-47.0	45.0-47.0	60.0-62.0
June 26	46.0-50.0	45.0-47.0	60.0-62.0

¹Source: Ryan's Notes, North American transaction price.

²Source: Platts Metals Week, dealer import price.

TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND PRODUCER STOCKS OF SILICON ALLOYS
AND METAL IN 2003^{1, 2, 3}

(Metric tons)

Material	Gross production ⁴		Net shipments		Stocks, June 30,
	June	Year to date ⁵	June	Year to date ⁵	
Ferrosilicon:					
All grades ^{6, 7}	16,000	106,000	15,000	87,700	29,900
Silicon metal:					
Excludes semiconductor grades	10,900	66,100	9,770	61,400	4,330

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Includes U.S. Geological Survey estimates.

³Data for silvery pig iron (less than 25% silicon) withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

⁴Includes in-plant consumption, as in production of magnesium ferrosilicon and other miscellaneous alloys.

⁵Includes revisions to previous months' data.

⁶Ferrosilicon categories were aggregated to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

⁷Includes miscellaneous silicon alloys.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN MAY 2003^{1, 2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Country	Gross weight	Contained weight	Value	Year to date		
				Gross weight	Contained weight	Value
Ferrosilicon:						
More than 55% silicon:						
Canada	372	223	\$307,000	1,900	1,140	\$1,550,000
Malaysia	--	--	--	16	13	27,400
Mexico	174	105	162,000	614	377	672,000
Total	546	328	469,000	2,530	1,530	2,250,000
Other ferrosilicon:						
Australia	19	10	25,300	19	10	25,300
Brazil	20	9	25,800	100	45	128,000
Canada	147	74	107,000	1,230	617	997,000
France	6	3	5,010	6	3	5,010
Italy	16	9	26,300	32	17	52,600
Korea, Republic of	52	26	64,300	478	239	508,000
Mexico	117	59	97,300	742	371	679,000
Spain	4	2	3,240	4	2	3,240
Taiwan	--	--	--	1	1	6,190
Total	381	191	354,000	2,620	1,300	2,400,000
Total ferrosilicon	927	519	823,000	5,150	2,840	4,650,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2--Continued
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN MAY 2003^{1,2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Country	Gross weight	Contained weight	Value	Year to date		
				Gross weight	Contained weight	Value
Metal:						
More than 99.99% silicon:						
China	55	XX	1,780,000	399	XX	11,900,000
France	(3)	XX	6,420	51	XX	1,230,000
Germany	51	XX	1,330,000	291	XX	9,710,000
Italy	10	XX	762,000	31	XX	2,900,000
Japan	265	XX	11,400,000	1,800	XX	81,000,000
Korea, Republic of	75	XX	3,030,000	295	XX	10,800,000
Norway	48	XX	1,240,000	433	XX	10,700,000
Taiwan	17	XX	510,000	77	XX	2,670,000
Ukraine	--	XX	--	40	XX	1,100,000
United Kingdom	22	XX	1,400,000	100	XX	8,620,000
Other (34 countries)	51	XX	3,520,000	168	XX	13,200,000
Total	593	593 ^e	25,000,000	3,680	3,680 ^e	154,000,000
99.00% - 99.99% silicon:						
Belgium	--	--	--	4	4	5,180
Brazil	18	18	46,900	102	101	227,000
Colombia	39	39	55,100	39	39	55,100
Denmark	--	--	--	7	7	9,270
Jamaica	--	--	--	9	9	15,300
Japan	--	--	--	13	13	31,900
Mexico	11	11	14,900	60	59	88,300
Norway	94	93	132,000	240	238	338,000
Singapore	--	--	--	7	7	9,020
Venezuela	4	4	5,060	39	38	56,200
Other (7 countries)	8	8	18,100	16	16	43,600
Total	173	172	272,000	535	530	879,000
Other silicon:						
Canada	3	3	5,910	1,820	1,760	1,890,000
China	--	--	--	42	41	55,200
Germany	--	--	--	36	35	47,500
Hong Kong	--	--	--	27	26	110,000
Hungary	23	22	30,500	23	22	30,500
Japan	186	180	245,000	726	705	1,120,000
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	188	182	248,000
Mexico	28	27	100,000	66	64	276,000
Netherlands	44	42	429,000	231	220	1,640,000
United Kingdom	30	29	21,400	193	187	203,000
Other (12 countries)	4	4	10,700	42	41	155,000
Total	319	309	843,000	3,390	3,290	5,780,000
Total silicon metal	1,090	1,070	26,100,000	7,610	7,500	161,000,000

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Presentation of monthly data is based on the year-to-date quantities (gross weight) of the top 10 countries.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN MAY 2003^{1,2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Country	Gross weight	Contained weight	Value	Year to date		
				Gross weight	Contained weight	Value
Ferrosilicon:						
55% - 80% silicon, over 3% Ca:						
Argentina	123	55	\$116,000	586	283	\$536,000
Brazil	240	170	156,000	620	482	483,000
Canada	--	--	--	41	30	16,400
China	--	--	--	19	3	14,200
France	--	--	--	54	32	72,700
Mexico	--	--	--	11	8	40,700
Total	363	225	272,000	1,330	838	1,160,000
55% - 80% silicon, Other:						
Brazil	--	--	--	4,350	3,320	2,420,000
Canada	1,210	897	854,000	5,470	4,120	3,570,000
China	4,640	3,480	2,610,000	14,900	11,200	7,800,000
Egypt	--	--	--	1,150	814	583,000
Kazakhstan	5,060	3,880	3,840,000	13,600	10,400	9,300,000
Norway	650	482	738,000	2,360	1,740	2,930,000
Russia	--	--	--	2,210	1,590	1,160,000
South Africa	1,140	858	642,000	2,440	1,850	1,340,000
Ukraine	1,730	1,330	1,250,000	4,290	3,250	2,460,000
Venezuela	7,690	5,770	2,450,000	16,000	14,100 ³	10,900,000
Other (4 countries)	332	232	783,000	1,460	1,000	3,180,000
Total	22,500	16,900	13,200,000	68,300	53,400	45,600,000
80% - 90% silicon:						
Canada	--	--	--	19	15	7,420
South Africa	--	--	--	9	7	3,350
Total	--	--	--	28	23	10,800
Magnesium ferrosilicon:						
Argentina	180	81	124,000	987	446	684,000
Brazil	198	96	109,000	2,190	964	1,350,000
Canada	287	138	269,000	1,220	583	1,060,000
China	650	293	430,000	2,150	958	1,450,000
France	--	--	--	40	18	46,200
Germany	2	1	2,870	8	4	11,500
Japan	32	14	21,600	159	73	216,000
Norway	1,610	743	1,340,000	6,110	2,800	4,970,000
Total	2,960	1,370	2,300,000	12,900	5,850	9,780,000
Other ferrosilicon:						
Brazil	83	42	44,300	274	139	159,000
Canada	743	261	453,000	3,300	1,130	2,110,000
China	--	--	--	59	28	58,100
France	2	1	5,650	22	12	50,600
Russia	--	--	--	1,160	939	593,000
Total	828	303	503,000	4,820	2,250	2,970,000
Total ferrosilicon	26,600	18,800	16,200,000	87,300	62,400	59,500,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 3--Continued
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF FERROSILICON AND SILICON METAL IN MAY 2003^{1,2}

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

Country	Gross weight	Contained weight	Value	Year to date		
				Gross weight	Contained weight	Value
Metal:						
More than 99.99% silicon:						
Belgium	--	XX	--	12	XX	\$48,000
China	(4)	XX	\$31,700	35	XX	381,000
Finland	--	XX	--	9	XX	29,100
Germany	35	XX	3,940,000	140	XX	16,400,000
India	14	XX	18,900	14	XX	18,900
Italy	37	XX	1,940,000	165	XX	7,240,000
Japan	47	XX	1,620,000	188	XX	5,510,000
Korea, Republic of	7	XX	40,200	60	XX	474,000
Poland	--	XX	--	4	XX	17,300
Spain	--	XX	--	4	XX	17,400
Other (5 countries)	(4)	XX	49,500	4	XX	533,000
Total	141	141 ^e	7,640,000	635	635 ^e	30,700,000
99.00% - 99.99% silicon:						
Argentina	--	--	--	120	119	115,000
Australia	342	340	365,000	2,810	2,540 ³	2,970,000
Brazil	7,220	7,160	8,220,000	24,900	24,700	29,700,000
Canada	1,220	1,210	1,440,000	6,280	6,220	7,470,000
China	--	--	--	265	263	237,000
Kazakhstan	--	--	--	420	416	422,000
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	120	119	96,000
Malaysia	300	297	309,000	300	297	309,000
Norway	802	815	1,240,000	3,170	3,040	5,380,000
South Africa	2,690	2,670	3,130,000	14,300	14,200	16,200,000
Other (6 countries)	48	47	111,000	120	94	241,000
Total	12,600	12,500	14,800,000	52,900	52,100	63,100,000
Other silicon:						
Brazil	--	--	--	585	576	593,000
Canada	--	--	--	883	860	660,000
China	239	235	226,000	2,440	2,400	2,160,000
Germany	43	42	45,600	163	160	161,000
Kazakhstan	--	--	--	240	233	190,000
Norway	6	6	13,400	1,100	1,080	1,110,000
South Africa	657	642	634,000	4,580	4,500	4,390,000
Ukraine	136	133	131,000	510	501	480,000
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	319	314	264,000
United Kingdom	100	98	125,000	561	546	592,000
Other (8 countries)	25	20	20,100	547	418	615,000
Total	1,210	1,180	1,190,000	11,900	11,600	11,200,000
Total silicon metal	14,000	13,900	23,600,000	65,400	64,300	105,000,000

^eEstimated. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Presentation of monthly data is based on the year-to-date quantities (gross weight) of the top 10 countries.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

⁴Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.